THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) As per the census of handicrafts artisans conducted by NCAER during 1995-96, the number of handicrafts units functioning in different parts of Rajasthan is 1,28,871 and 4,07,700 number of artisans are engaged in these units.

(b) The scheme/incentive being given by Government for promotion and development of handicrafts in the country including the State of Rajasthan include training for skill upgradation; marketing development support; revival of languishing crafts; design and technology upgradation; setting up of Craft Development Centre and Common Facility Centre; setting up of work sheds and work sheds-cum-housing; conferring of National Award and National Merit Certificates to outstanding crafts persons; group insurance and pension under indigent circumstances etc. With a view to ensure sustainable development of the sector the Government has recently launched a new comprehensive scheme named "Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana" which seeks to develop selected artisans clusters into professionally managed self-reliant community enterprises working on the principle of effective member participation and mutual cooperation.

Review of TUFS to boost investment in Textile Sector

5234. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the working to Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme to boost investment in Textile Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that scheme has lost its momentum in implementation;

(d) if so, the, reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to boost TUFS funding in textile sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (e) For monitoring and review of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee (IMSC) under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Textiles) including representations of Departments of Expenditure, Commerce, Industry, Banking and Planning Commission has been constituted. Besides a Technical Advisory and Monitoring Committee

(TAMC) under the chairmanship of the Textile Commissioner has also been constituted to monitor and review the progress of the scheme, accelerate its implementation as well as to suggest necessary changes in the technical/financial norms and other aspects for smooth operation of the scheme. Taking into account suggestions received from various organizations, government has been amending the Scheme to make it more use friendly. Some of the major amendments are :—

(i) Providing an option to the Small Scale Sector textile and jute industries for availing of either 12% Upfront Credit Linked Capital Subsidy or the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(ii) Restoring coverage of Cotton Ginning and Pressing (G&P) Sector under TUFS with an option for G&P units to avail of benefits either under TUFS or Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC).

During 1999-2000 *i.e* the first year of launching the scheme, the progress was moderate. The tempo of progress gained momentum during the second year *i.e.* 2000-2001. However, during the current financial year *i.e* 2001-2002 the progress has slowed down due to recessionary trend prevailing in the international and domestic economy. As on March 31, 2002, 1598 applications with project cost of Rs. 13,967 crore have been received. 1369 applications with project cost of Rs. 10,774 crore requiring loan of Rs. 5141 crore have been sanctioned. 1074 applications with project cost of Rs. 8560 crore have been disbursed an amount of Rs. 3,412 crore.

Deen Dayal Handloom Promotion Plan in Chhattisgarh

†5235. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any schemes/proposals from the Government of Chhattisgarh regarding Deen Dayal Handloom Promotion Plan, Design input and Health package for weavers in Durg, Rajnandgaon and Kavardh district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposals are likely to be implemened?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.